

**FY 2018 PRESS CONFERENCE & HEARINGS**  
**Flame Retardants under TSCA**

**ISSUE/TOPIC:** What is EPA doing to address concerns on flame retardants?

**BACKGROUND:**

- Risks from three flame retardants are being evaluated or addressed under amended TSCA:
  - Cyclic aliphatic bromide cluster (HBBD) was identified as one of the first ten chemicals selected for risk evaluation; and
  - Decabromodiphenyl ethers (DecaBDE) and tris (4-isopropylphenyl) phosphate, were among five persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals identified for expedited action by June 22, 2019.
- HBBD is used in extruded polystyrene foam, textiles, and electrical and electronic appliances. DecaBDE is used as a flame retardant in textiles, plastics and polyurethane foam, and tris (4-isopropylphenyl) phosphate is used as a flame retardant in consumer products and other industrial uses.
- EPA recently denied two separate petitions under section 21 of TSCA submitted by groups of NGOs requesting EPA issue orders under TSCA section 4 requiring that testing be conducted by manufacturers for certain flame retardants [three chlorinated phosphate esters (CPE) and tetrabromobisphenol A]. EPA denied the petitions on the grounds that petitioners have not demonstrated there is insufficient data on the chemicals, and thus that the specific testing they requested is necessary. (decisions issued March 2017 and April 2017)
- On April 2, 2012, EPA proposed a significant new use rule for decabromodiphenyl ether (DecaBDE) requiring that EPA be notified of certain uses before they commence and requiring testing on their effects on health and the environment. These rules have not been finalized.

**TALKING POINTS:**

- Risks from three flame retardants are among the first being evaluated or addressed under amended TSCA:
  - Cyclic aliphatic bromide cluster (HBBD) was identified as one of the first ten chemicals selected for risk evaluation; and
  - Decabromodiphenyl ethers (DecaBDE) and tris (4-isopropylphenyl) phosphate, were among five persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals identified for expedited action by June 22, 2019.
- EPA will assess the hazard(s), exposure(s), and potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations(s). This information will be used to make a final determination as to whether the chemicals presents an unreasonable risk.